

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 2-21 are pending. Claims 2-21 are added and claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The specification as filed provides support for the added claims. Thus, no new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing Amendment and following Remarks, allowance of the pending claims is requested.

Substitute Specification

On October 10, 2003, the Initial Patent Examination Division sent to the Applicants a Notice to File Corrected Application Papers requesting the filing of a substitute specification. This notice was presumably sent because claim 1, as originally filed, was not 1½ or double-spaced. In response to this requirement, on January 7, 2004, previous counsel submitted a document that, while apparently related to the above-captioned application, did not appear to comply with the Initial Patent Examination Division's request. Nonetheless, examination on the merits proceeded, as evidenced by the Examiner's Office Action mailed December 29, 2005 ("Dec. 2005 Office Action").

For the sake of clarity, Applicants submit herewith a new substitute specification based on the specification as originally filed on July 14, 2003. A clean copy of the new substitute specification is submitted herewith as "Attachment A." A marked-up version of the new substitute specification is also enclosed as "Attachment B." The marked-up copy of the new substitute specification shows changes relative to the specification as originally filed on July 14, 2003, not relative to the document submitted on January 7, 2004.

The new substitute specification contains no new matter. This new substitute specification includes a Brief Description of the Drawings to accompany the New Sheet of FIG. 1 submitted in response to the Examiner's requirement for a drawing in the Dec. 2005 Office Action. The new substitute specification also includes the originally filed claim 1 (double spaced), heading and formatting corrections, and amendments to the

Abstract to address the points raised by the Examiner regarding the Abstract in the Dec. 2005 Office Action.

The foregoing Amendment to the claims cancels claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and adds new claims 2-21. The new substitute specification does not reflect these amendments to the claims. They are reflected only in the Listing of Claims above.

New Drawing

In the Dec. 2005 Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner requires that the applicant submit a drawing for this application. Accordingly, a New Sheet containing FIG. 1 is submitted herewith as "Attachment C." FIG. 1 is supported by the Specification as originally filed on July 14, 2003.

Specification

In the Dec. 2005 Office Action, at page 2, the Examiner objects to certain aspects of the Abstract. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the Abstract in the substitute specification submitted herewith.

Claims Objections

The Examiner has objected to the claims because the lines thereof are "crowded too closely together, making reading difficult." In the substitute specification submitted herewith, the applicant has included original claim 1 in double spaced format. Furthermore the foregoing Amendment lists new claims 2-21 in double spaced format.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Applicant disagrees with these rejections. However, Applicants have cancelled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 20030050986, by Matthews et al. ("Matthews"). Applicant disagrees with these rejections because the portions of Matthews cited by the Examiner fail to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. However, Applicants have cancelled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) moot.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 2-21, of which claims 2 and 12 are independent claims. Independent claims 2 and 12 are patentable over Matthews for at least the reason that the portions of Matthews relied upon by the Examiner in the above rejection of claim 1 fail to disclose each and every feature of independent claims 2 and 12.

For example, Matthews does not disclose a search engine that searches for another of the plurality of live users in a community, as set forth in claims 2 and 12. At best, the portions of Matthews relied upon by the Examiner relate to searching for "a group to join." Matthews, ¶ 47, l. 15. This is not a search engine that searches for other users with which to communicate.

Additionally, Matthews does not disclose a flagging filter that flags communications, wherein flagged communications are reviewed prior to release to their intended recipient, as set forth in claims 2 and 12. At best, the portions of Matthews cited by the Examiner relate to monitoring of messages posted to a message board. Messages on a message board, as discussed in Matthews, have reached their destination (the message board) prior to review by a group administrator. Matthews does not disclose the feature of the claimed invention, wherein messages are flagged and reviewed prior to reaching their destination.

For at least the reasons cited above, the portions of Matthews cited by the Examiner in the rejection of claim 1 do not disclose each and every feature of

independents claim 2 and 12. Claims 3-11 and 13-21 depend from and add features to one of independent claims 2 or 12. Thus these claims are likewise patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner to reject originally filed claim 1.

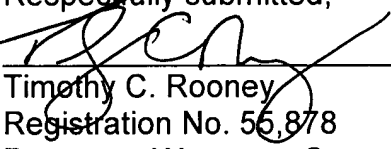
CONCLUSION

Having addressed each of the foregoing objections and rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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